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16 JUN 1965

DD/S&T 2572-65

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director-Comptroller
SUBJECT: Report of ADP Committee
REFERENCE: Action Memorandum A-444, dated
26 March 1965

1. This memorandum presents the Executive Director-Comptroller with my views on the Report of the Automatic Data Processing (ADP) Committee convened by the Executive Director-Comptroller to review Agency programs and plans for ADP. It further presents a recommendation for action. That recommendation is found in paragraph 8.

2. It is my opinion that the Report of the ADP Committee is not responsive to the direction given by the Executive Director-Comptroller. Action Memorandum A-444 established, in paragraph 3, a minimum of five issues to which the Committee should address itself. The reading of this Report indicates to me that the Committee has not given consideration, and therefore has not been responsive, to the following three issues:

a. Projection of probable Agency automatic data processing needs over the next five years in the light of anticipated intelligence programs and ADP equipment advances;

b. Identification of possible alternative Agency actions and their costs with respect to projected needs; and

c. Discussion of ways and means to achieve further economies in the use of the Agency's ADP assets.

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3. In a more general sense it is my further considered opinion that the Committee failed to identify the problem for which they were convened and therefore have failed in their assignment. It is clear to me that the issue was to take a critical and penetrating look at Agency progress to date in properly organizing and posturing itself to accomplish the most effective and economical use of automatic data processing equipment. Having performed this study, the Committee was then expected to give advice and guidance to senior Agency management as to how best to proceed in this most significant field. In lieu of accepting and responding to that challenge, I find the following type of language in the Report:

a. ". . . the Committee was unable to obtain unqualified acceptance of a premise that the preservation of the status quo represents a condition or a set of conditions which should or should not continue indefinitely to be tolerated." (Confer pages 31 and 32.)

b. "The Committee notes, however, that the validity of settling on any one course is suspect because criteria to measure effectiveness of mission accomplishment and security considerations in balance against cost of one or another of the several possible alternatives have not been established to everyone's satisfaction." (Confer page 32.)

Having expressed themselves in the ambiguous rhetoric quoted above, the Committee then recommends major reorganizational changes, not designed to solve the problem but, in essence, to further study it.

4. The definition of the issue, as I interpret it, is not one of tremendous philosophical challenge. The courses of action available, to be responsive to your directive, are either to enhance the concept of centralization or to retreat to a situation of status quo ante. While in effect the Agency today has some degree of theoretical centralization, the responsibilities and authorities of the Office of Computer Services are at best ambiguous and weak. Accordingly, the Agency owes it to itself to adopt a clear and forthright policy on centralization concerning ADP or abolish the concept.

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5. As the Deputy Director for Science and Technology, I somewhat share the parochial views expressed by the other Directorates which, in the main, stand for Directorate-owned and operated computer centers. Like any line commander, I like to have under my control the totality of assets essential to the discharge of my responsibilities. Further, with CCS located within this Directorate, I am given responsibilities of an Agency-wide nature and, to the degree that this exists, I must concern myself with extra-Directorate matters. My primary need in the field of computerization is for a scientific and arithmetic computation capability.

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6. The above having been said, I feel it incumbent upon me to crystallize the true issue. This crystallization is admirably performed in the dissent to the APP Committee Report, rendered, with my knowledge and approval, by [redacted] the DD/S&T representative on the Committee. [redacted] as evidenced by his dissent, has thoroughly read and understood the challenge given the Committee by you. He has presented argumentation of an impressive, persuasive, and logical nature which I find difficult, as a senior Agency officer, to dismiss. While the Committee Report itself speaks of ill-defined issues and general considerations, which allowed the Committee to come to no specific conclusions or recommendations, [redacted] has clearly and precisely presented the facts of the matter to Agency management. In effect, he asks the question as to whether the Agency can afford any other course except centralization and his facts clearly state that there is no other acceptable alternative.

7. I should like to offer one other observation. The Committee presents for your consideration five recommendations. Three of them pertain to the establishment of the position of "Assistant for Data Processing" having a direct reporting relationship to the DCI. I would submit for your consideration that such a position, in the person of the Assistant Director for Computer Services, today exists. All that is necessary to accomplish the intent of the first three Committee recommendations is a strong charter and an Agency will stand behind the provisions of that charter. I find no quarrel with recommendation 4 and, as for recommendation 5, I agree with the obvious exception that there is no need to create the Assistant for Data Processing in the Director's office.

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8. It is my recommendation that you not endorse the ADP Committee Report, that [redacted] dissent be accepted as the basis for an Agency policy in computer centralization, and that an appropriate Agency regulation be issued, the implementation of which will be a responsibility of the Assistant Director for Computer Services.

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ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

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